

Defense Aide Denies Shelters Invite War

By MILTON VTORST

STAT

Washington, March 8—A high Defense Dept. official has challenged the assertion that the nation's fallout shelter program increases the possibility of nuclear war.

He said the assertion comes from "eminent social scientists who . . . have merely disguised their opposition to the civil defense program a flimsy facade of pseudo-science."

Adam Yarmolinsky, special assistant to Defense Secretary McNamara, said that the Administration's vigorous promotion of disarmament and civil defense is not contradictory.

"The Recognition of Danger"

"The same recognition of the danger with which we live spurs both our interest in disarmament and in a modest civil defense program, at least to alleviate some of the possible consequences of a nuclear attack, should it come, he declared.

Yarmolinsky lashed back vigorously at a recent report which declared that "shelters are dangerous because they reduce our will to find peaceful solutions to international problems."

He said the reasoning behind such a conclusion is equivalent to the rider of a new car saying: "we have seat belts. We are safe. Let smash-up come."

The Administration's civil defense program, Yarmolinsky declared, "is not being justified as a military weapon." It is not meant, he said, to increase the nation's deterrent capacity or serve as a weapon in the cold war.

\$300,000,000 Requested

"The very nature of fallout shelters is such that they can be useful only to people who are not in the direct blast and fire area of a nuclear explosion: that is, to people who are not the direct victims of attack," he said.

The Administration this year is asking for \$300,000,000 for civil defense, more than half of it to go into financing shelters in schools, welfare institutions and other public buildings.

Last year, Congress refused to authorize such an expenditure and appropriated only \$113,000,000 for civil defense instead of the \$695,000,000 the Administration requested. There is no indication that Congress is more sympathetic to the program this year.

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